

Message Text

SECRET

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44

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 OMB-01 L-03 AID-20 IO-13 MMS-03 IGA-02

TRSE-00 PA-03 PRS-01 USIA-15 RSR-01 /126 W

----- 100994

P R 302205Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5358

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

JCS

USCINCSO

S E C R E T SANTIAGO 3904

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: OGEN

SUBJ: POSSIBLE TRANSFER OF USSOUTHCOM

REF: STATE 164406

1. CINCSO AND THE THREE SERVICE COMPONENT COMMANDS SERVE AS A FOCAL POINT TO SUPPORT MAP ACTIONS OF IMPORTANCE TO THIS MISSION. THE CANAL ZONE ORGANIZATIONS PERFORM A NUMBER OF VALUABLE SERVICES--DISASTER RELIEF, MOBILE TRAINING TEAMS, TRAINING, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR HOST COUNTRY MIL PERSONNEL, PROCUREMENT OF VITAL ITEMS, MEDICAL ASSISTANCE, AND OTHER MISCELLANEOUS SUPPORT FUNCTIONS. WE WOULD BE LOATHE TO SEE A DIMINUTION OF THESE SERVICES. WE ALSO HAVE FOUND IN USCINCSO A HELPFUL ADVOCATE IN US MILITARY CIRCLES OF THE POLITICAL/ MILITARY PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED BY OUR EMBASSY AND MILGP.

2. THE CHILEAN MILITARY ARE PROBABLY INDIFFERENT TO THE LOCATION OF SOUTHCOM. THE CIVILIAN ALLENDE GOVT REGARDS ANY US MILITARY PRESENCE IN THE CANAL ZONE AS A FORM OF NEO-COLONIALISM WHICH PREVENTS THE PEOPLE OF PANAMA FROM RECOVERING WHAT IS RIGHTFULLY THEIRS. THE ALLENDE GOVT CAN BE EXPECTED TO BACK PANAMANIAN CLAIMS OVER THE CANAL AND THE CANAL ZONE

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WHETHER SOUTHCOM AND THE SERVICE COMMANDS ARE THERE OR NOT.

3. IN TERMS OF THE CHILEAN REALITY, WE SEE NO GAIN FROM A POSSIBLE SOUTHCOM MOVE TO PUERTO RICO. THE US WOULD NOT REAP ANY SUBSTANTIAL POLITICAL ADVANTAGE IN CHILE. THE REVERSE MIGHT MARGINALLY BE TRUE, WITH MORE ATTENTION DRAWN TO THE MINISCULE PUERTO RICAN INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT WHICH THE GOC HAS RECENTLY SHOWN AN INCLINATION TO BACK IN UN FORUMS.

DAVIS

SECRET

NNN

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